

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, Applicants have amended claims 22, 29, 32 and 36-37 and have cancelled claims 23-25, 27 and 34-35. Claims 22, 26, 29-33 and 36-39 are pending.

In the office action dated November 6, 1997 in the parent application, the Examiner rejected claims 32-39 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 29, 31, 32, 36, 37 and 39 to avoid the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. The Examiner rejected claim 38 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph stating that "the step of causing the memory location ... to be relocated" was not clear. Applicants would point out that the word in claim 38 is not "relocated" but - reallocated - which is discussed in Applicants specification on 17, lines 16-19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

In addition, the Examiner rejected all of Applicants' claims under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5, 485,584 issued to Hausman, et al. ("Hausman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 179,661 issued to Copeland, et al. ("Copeland").

Regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, claim 22 has been amended to include the limitation:

"providing an indication to said host that a frame of data has been
successfully transmitted over said network when a frame of data has been
copied from said main memory to said buffer memory"

This limitation was added to further clarify Applicants invention. In particular, this limitation reduces latency caused by the host in that it allows the host to continue to process frames in the upper and lower protocol layers while the controller is sending out the data over the

network. This is described in Applicants specification on pages 10, lines 3-7 and page 14, lines 20-27. In addition, it is also shown in Figure 4 where at time 207 the copy complete indication is given which is viewed by the host as the same as a transmission complete indication, (see specification, page 14, line 26). In contrast the actual frame transmission complete does not occur until time 212. This is also shown in Figure 5 at processing block 72. This shows the frame transmission complete indication is given to the host when a frame is copied to the buffer memory. This is in contrast to the actual frame transmission complete event which is indicated in processing block 98 at some later time.

Hausman in contrast does not address latency caused by the host. Hausman is like all other known prior art in that it does not issue a frame transmission complete indication until the frame has actually been transmitted. This can best be seen in Figure 4 b where this indication is given at processing step 470. Thus, in Hausman, the host cannot do any additional processing of frames until it receives this indication.

Again in contrast, Applicants send the frame transmission complete when the frame has been copied from main memory to buffer memory which occurs at an earlier time and thus frees the host to do additional frame processing when it would otherwise be idle with respect to frame transmission activities.

Thus, Applicants submit that their claim 22 as amended is not obvious in light of Hausman and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection thereto.

Independent claim 29 is a system claim that includes the limitation:

"a controller supplying a frame transmit complete indication to said CPU immediately after the copying of a complete frame from said main memory to said buffer memory but prior to the actual complete transmission of said frame over the network, for commencing transmission of said data over said network upon receipt of a threshold quantity of data into said buffer memory from said main memory, and for causing buffer memory locations occupied

by successfully transmitted frames to become available for data to be copied from said main memory"

This limitation corresponds to the amended matter in claim 22 and makes it clear that the frame transmit complete indication is sent to the CPU prior to the actual complete transmission of the frame over the network. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the arguments set out in connection with claim 22 are applicable to claim 29 and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection thereto.

Independent claim 37 includes the limitation on the parallel side:

"j. if yes, indicating to said driver layer that said data frame has been successfully transmitted"

Again, this limitation corresponds to the amended matter in claim 22 and makes it clear that the frame transmit complete indication is sent to the CPU prior to the actual complete transmission of the frame over the network. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the arguments set out in connection with claims 22 and 29 are applicable to claim 37 and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection thereto. rejection thereto.

Claims 26, 30-34, 36, 38 and 39 are dependent on claims which are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as cited in connection with their parent claims.

In this communication, Applicants have amended certain claims, cancelled certain claims and pointed out how their pending claims as amended are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is courteously solicited.

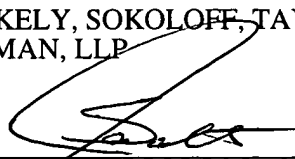
Pursuant to Rule 1.136(a), Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action. The extension fee of \$110 for a response filed within the first extension month is submitted concurrently herewith.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jim H. Salter at (408) 720-8598.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR &
ZAFMAN, LLP

Dated: 3/4, 1998


James H. Salter
Registration No. 35,668

Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598

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